

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 CU-02

AID-05 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 DHA-02

PC-01 IO-13 /048 W

-----041724Z 073206 /41

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2030

AMEMBASSY LIMA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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LIMA PASS TO ASST SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT BR

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA CALM; POLICE INPEDING NATIONAL
STUDENTS MEETING IN BELO HORIZONTE

REF: BRASILIA 4523

1. SUMMARY. THE UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA WAS CLAM MORNING
OF JUNE 4 EMPTY OF BOTH STURDENTS AND THE MILITARY POLICE,
WHO HAD OCCUPIED THE CAMPUS THE PREVIOUS DAY. STUDENTS
LEADERS ASSERTED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE THEIR SRIKE
ON MONDAY AND HAVE MENTIONED POSSIBLITY OF "OPEN LETTER".
ADDRESSED TO POPULATION OF BRASILIA AND PERHAPS MRS. CARTER,
DENOUNCING "CLIMATE OF PREPRESSION AND VOLENCE" ON CAMPUS.
IN BELO HORIZONTE, POLICE SURROUNDED ALL BUILDINGS ON
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN ORDER TO PREVENT SCHEDULED
NATIONAL STUDENTS MEETING ON SATURDAY JUNE 4. AMERICAN
SOURCE IN BELO REPORTED SOME 200 TO 400 STUDENTS TRAPPED
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INSIED ONE UNIVERSITY BUILDING WITH POLICE ARRESTING ALL
WHO ATTEMPTED TO ENTER OR LEAVE; THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS
OF POLICE STOPPING ALL BUSES ENTERING CITY AND DETAINING
REPRESENTATIVES TO MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. MILITARY POLICE OCCUPIED THE UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA (UNB)
CAMPUS ON FRIDAY BUT DID NOT INTERFERE WITH APPOXIMATELY

1500 STUDENTS HOLDING A GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE MAIN CLASS-ROOM BUILDING. DESPITE ATTEMPTS BY A GROUP OF PROFESSORS TO MEDiate THE DISPUTE, THE STUDENTS VOTED TO REMAIN ON STRIKE UNTIL ALL POLICE LEFT THE CAMPUS AND UNTIL THE RECTOR REVOKED THE SUSPENSIONS HE HAD PLACED SEVERAL DAYS AGO ON 16 STUDENTS (REFTEL). EARLIER THE RECTOR HAD OFFERED TO "REVIEW" THE SUSPENSIONS IF THE STRIKE WERE ENDED. NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF THE NUMBER OF POLICE ON OR IN IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF CAMPUS VARIED FROM 1500 TO 3000; EMBOFF PRESENT ESTIMATED 600 TO 800 UNIFORMED MILITARY POLICE PLUS ANOTHER 150 TO 200 PLAINCLOTHES POLICE. STUDENTS QUIT CAMPUS LATE FRIDAY, VOWING TO CONTINUE STRIKE ON MONDAY AND THE SECURITY FORCES WITHDREW SHORTLY THEREAFTER. PUBLICATION OF AN OPEN LETTER DENONCING "THE CLIMATE OF REPRESSION AND VIOLENCE" ON CAMPUS WAS DISCUSSED DURING ASSEMBLY BUT DECISION WAS DEFERRED UNTIL MONDAY. SEVERAL PERSONS MENTIONED TO EMBOFF THE POSSIBILITY OF OPEN LETTER BEING ADDRESSED TO MRS. CARTER AND ALL EMBASSIES IN BRASILIA, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT BROUGHT UP DURING ASSEMBLY.

3. IN BELO HORIZONTE, POLICE SURROUNDED FEDERAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS FRIDAY NIGHT TO PREVENT PLANNED NATIONAL STUDENTS MEETING ON SATURDAY. AMERICAN SOURCE PRESENT REPORTED THAT 200 TO 400 STUDENTS WERE TRAPPED INSIDE AN AUDITORIUM IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, SITE OF THE PLANNED MEETING, AND THAT MILITARY POLICE WERE ARRESTING ANY ONE WHO ATTEMPTED TO ENTER OR LEAVE THE BUILDING. SOURCE ALSO CONFIRMED SATURDAY NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT POLICE WERE STOPPING BUSES ENTERING BELO HORIZONTE AND DETAINING PERSONS BELIEVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEADED FOR THE MEETING AND ESTIMATED THAT 150 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN THIS MANNER SINCE FRIDAY. MINAS GERAIS GOVERNOR AURELIANO CHAVES WHO (ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS) WAS UNDER ORDERS FROM JUSTICE MINISTER TO PREVENT MEETING, SAID THAT BRAZIL IS ENTERING "A PREPARATORY PERIOD OF SUBVERSION, OF VIOLENT PREACHING" AND QUESTIONED THE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDE ELEMENTS AMONG THE STUDENTS.

4. THE STRIKE AT THE UNB HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN BRAZILIAN CONGRESS. OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS HAVE GENERALLY PRAISED STUDENTS AND APPROVED THEIR DEMANDS, WHILE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HAVE MADE ACCUSATIONS OF SUBVERSION AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE CONSERVATIVE RECTOR. NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AGAINST THE THREE MDB DEPUTIES WHO WENT TO CAMPUS TO ADDRESS THE STUDENTS, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT THEY WILL BE CASSATED, AS HAPPENED TO THREE DEPUTIES IN 1968 IN A SIMILAR INCIDENT. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO TOOK NOTES OF GOVERNMENT CONCERN WITH CURRENT SITUATION, NOTING THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL HAD MET

WITH CHIEFS OF HIS CIVIL AND MILITARY CABINETS AND THE SNI
(NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE) TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.
O ESTADO IN EDITORIAL SAID THAT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE
SIMPLY ANOTHER PART OF "WAVE OF POPULAR DISSATISFACTION
WITH POLITICAL SITUATION IN WHICH WE LIVE, AGGRAVATED AND
IN PART PROVOKED BY ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES," AND ADDED THAT
"STUDENTS DEMONSTRATIONS, RATHER THAN OPPOSING THE NATIONAL
FEELINGS, HAVE BECOME AN EXPRESSION OF GENERALLY SHARED
SENTIMENTS. THE REPRESSION AGAINST THE STUDENTS, THERE-
FORE, BEGINS TO APPEAR AS THE VISIBLE SYMBOL OF
REPRESSION AGAINST THE ENTIRE NATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNIVERSITIES, STUDENTS
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Sent Date: 04-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770200-0149
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770690/aaaadbek.tel
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